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Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 29 June 1994, at 3 p.m.

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| President: | Mr. BUTLER | (Australia) |
| later: | Mr. TEJERA PARIS | (Venezuela) |

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An agenda for development (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AN AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT (A/48/935) (continued)

Mr. ROCHAT (Secretary-General, International Civil Aviation Organization) said that an agenda for peaceful social and economic development must take into account all factors that had hampered development efforts in the past. One such factor involved the availability and allocation of funds necessary for development programmes. An expanded role for the Bretton Woods institutions and regional banks could generate additional funds, but it should be accompanied by increased cooperation with United Nations executing agencies in order to ensure more effective evaluation and implementation of development programmes. That was particularly important for the small, highly specialized and technical United Nations agencies, which in recent years had seen a significant reduction in funding and were being marginalized and bypassed by donors and larger agencies alike. The smaller agencies had played a very effective role through their normative functions and by providing technical assistance to States in the implementation of international technical standards. Their contribution would remain essential because they normally were best able to identify long-range global and regional plans and objectives in their fields, and they were familiar with the local needs of their member States.

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) had identified the most important challenges facing civil aviation in the foreseeable future and had incorporated them into a Strategic Action Plan. Many aspects of that Plan should be incorporated in an agenda for development, since air transport contributed to global economic and social development and was a major factor in the development of tourism, communications and commerce. Air transport frequently was the sole link of developing countries with the outside world and between separate regions within their own territory. It was the fastest and most reliable means for dealing with emergencies and delivering relief supplies, and was a conduit for the transfer of technology through human resource development in its many advanced specialties. Air transport also was a major source of foreign currency revenue for developing countries.

(Mr. Rochat, ICAO)

Despite the essential role of civil aviation in the economic and social development of most developing countries, it often was overlooked or considered of marginal significance in the development effort. ICAO would be pleased to make its expertise and Strategic Action Plan available for the preparation of an agenda for development, a basic element of which should be an efficient world-wide air transport system.

Mr. MARUYAMA (Japan) said that the discussions should focus on concrete issues and action-oriented recommendations. The economies of some countries remained mired in stagnation because they had been unable effectively to utilize external assistance. Such countries must build the national capacity to formulate and manage economic policies and programmes that made the most effective use of external assistance.

In addition, official development assistance (ODA) must meet the needs of countries with widely differing circumstances, and programmes therefore must be tailored to each situation. His country had proposed a comprehensive approach whereby the provision of aid and measures to promote trade and investment were effectively combined, according to each country's level of development, so as to maximize the impact of ODA. The volume of ODA extended by the countries members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) had declined sharply in 1993. His country, the largest ODA donor, would continue to exert its best efforts to increase such assistance. However, since the prospects for an early economic recovery within the DAC countries themselves were not bright, the outlook for an increase in their ODA flows was likewise dim. It was therefore important to enhance the quality and impact of ODA to encourage donor countries to increase their assistance in the conviction that development assistance was effective and provided the soundest basis for peace.

Given the universality and neutrality of the United Nations, the Organization had a crucial role to play in achieving greater coherence, consensus and cooperation for development among all the parties concerned. It also was the most appropriate agency to address such cross-sectoral issues as the relationship between military expenditures or the arms trade and development. The United Nations should enhance its role as a forum for a wide-ranging development policy dialogue and should press forward with the implementation of actions on which agreement had been reached, as a way of

(Mr. Maruyama, Japan)

strengthening the trust of member countries in the Organization and renewing the commitment of aid-fatigued donors to the cause of development.

Mr. LAVROV (Russian Federation) said that in recent years it had been said that the socio-economic sector of the United Nations was being marginalized and that the confrontation of the "cold war" era had been a far more powerful factor for development assistance than the current situation. That logic must be rejected; despite the difficulties of the current period, it had to be recalled that in the era of confrontation development assistance had largely been an instrument of ideological warfare, disregarding the human factor of development. The world community must now create new mechanisms for resolving the problems of development on the basis of equal partnership and of sharing the costs and benefits of cooperation. The agenda for development must embody a new concept of development, taking into account social, demographic, humanitarian and environmental factors. It must also provide practical guidelines in respect of the priorities of the United Nations and instruments to achieve those priorities, taking into account the specific conditions of different groups of countries; modalities for the cooperation of the United Nations with multilateral monetary, financial and trade institutions and also with regional economic organizations; and ways of mobilizing financial resources and improving structures and mechanisms.

It was important that there should be balance between the interests of sovereign States and those of non-State actors in international economic relations. While the specific needs of different groups of countries must be taken into account, a simplistic ideological geography dividing the world into North and South or East and West should be avoided; real life was infinitely more diverse, and that diversity must be reflected in the agenda. A rational division of work between the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and other multilateral and regional organizations and non-governmental associations was of particular significance. The United Nations, on the basis of its comparative advantages, could concentrate on operational activities, environmental protection, emergency humanitarian assistance, population problems, and the political coordination of the agenda for development.

The agenda for development would be viable only if it adequately reflected the realities of the end of the current century. Development required a harmonious combination of economic growth with social stability, protection of

(Mr. Lavrov, Russian Federation)

the environment and the full realization of human potential. It presupposed the protection of human rights, political and economic freedom and the settlement of social, ethnic and ethical problems. The "agenda for people" should be an integral part of the agenda for development.

The PRESIDENT pointed out that statements by representatives of the regional economic commissions were available in the meeting room.

Mr. SUCHARIPA (Observer for Austria) said that development policies should be human-centred and should focus on broadening the range of choices relating to access to income and employment opportunities, education and health, the physical environment, political decision-making, human rights and economic and political freedoms. Democracy and peace were both a precondition for development and its essential outcome.

His delegation believed that the five dimensions of development outlined in the report by the Secretary-General (A/48/935) provided the foundation for action to achieve sustainable human-centred development. That was also the goal of a number of recent and upcoming global conferences.

His country's bilateral and multilateral cooperation programme sought to foster global human security through poverty alleviation, human resources development, environmental protection and efforts to enhance the access of women to equal participation in economic and social development. Full participation by non-governmental organizations was crucial for the effective implementation of policies. His country provided substantial support to the countries in transition and had increased its development assistance activities, particularly in Africa. As a member of the European Union, his country would be able to enhance such cooperation.

Noting that there was considerable concern that the United Nations could not adequately respond to development needs, he stressed the importance of improving cooperation between the United Nations and other international organizations on development issues, particularly at the operational level. While acknowledging the validity of some of the concerns expressed regarding the report by the Secretary-General, he noted that it was intended as a starting point for a discussion of a global agenda to provide a comprehensive approach by all partners in the development process. The agenda must reflect important changes that had occurred in recent years and solutions must be tailored to both regional and local conditions.

Mr. BRIOSA E GALA (Portugal) said that his delegation fully agreed with the statement made by the representative of Greece on behalf of the countries which were Members of the European Union. It also looked forward to the report of the Secretary-General to be based on the recent World Hearings on Development. In the context of new political and economic realities, the relevance of conclusions reached at earlier conferences should be borne in mind. Development must be viewed as a people-centred process that required popular participation in a democratic system and respect for human rights. Operative concepts identified at earlier conferences should be preserved, and the upcoming International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women would provide unique opportunities to move development forward.

His delegation fully supported the concept of the five dimensions for development outlined in the Secretary-General's report, and he underscored the importance of community participation in the development process. The recent Fourth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government had made a number of important recommendations to enhance development efforts.

The international community should accord top priority to eradicating poverty in Africa, particularly in the least developed countries. Efforts should focus on ending wars on that continent and on providing the required humanitarian aid. In the long run, the international community must address Africa's structural problems and provide technical assistance and the means for economic rehabilitation and reconstruction, thus paving the way for sustainable economic growth. His Government actively supported the peace process in Angola and Mozambique, and had recently launched a major initiative to promote basic education and health-care projects in those countries. It also supported the work of non-governmental organizations and humanitarian assistance programmes there. He called upon the international community to provide all possible support for those efforts.

His Government welcomed with great satisfaction the recent developments in South Africa, which no doubt would contribute to peace, stability and development in southern Africa.

As the members of the international community joined forces to promote development, they should bear in mind the importance of setting priorities,

(Mr. Briosa e Gala, Portugal)

making appropriate use of existing resources, ensuring coordination and maximizing human resources and community involvement. Poverty alleviation must remain a permanent concern. New strategies should be devised to preserve a balance between environment and development by utilizing available resources to create a direct link between public health, employment, trade and the environment within the framework of local, regional and international institutions.

The effective implementation of an agenda for development required a more collaborative and integrated approach to development, particularly at the field level. The United Nations Development Programme had an important role to play in that regard, and he urged improved coordination of multilateral and bilateral assistance.

Mr. WALZER (United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees) said that development and refugee concerns were closely related. The root causes of displacement were varied and complex. Very often lack of development and high population growth led to instability. Ethnic tensions and communal violence often were sparked by poverty, population growth and economic and social inequities, all of which contributed to refugee flows. However, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had only a limited ability to address the root causes of refugee problems. It could alert its colleagues in the development field to potential problems. Development efforts should target not only the poorest of the poor, but also, those countries which were at risk of breaking down. When development failed, humanitarian action was necessary, and in recent years UNHCR had responded to unprecedented refugee flows and population displacements in many parts of the world. In most cases refugees were from, and found asylum in, developing countries. The international community must continue to provide financial and moral support to countries which absorbed refugees.

He described a number of recent UNHCR repatriation efforts and noted that peace alone was not enough for refugees to return to their homes and reintegrate there. If returnees could not sustain themselves, they might be forced once again to cross borders. They might also join the stream of rural to urban migration, compounding one of the most serious problems facing developing countries. If repatriation was to endure, the areas to which displaced persons returned required sustainable development, to which end immediate intervention

(Mr. Walzer)

was crucial. To assist in bridging the gap between humanitarian relief and rehabilitation, UNHCR had pioneered the use of small-scale community-based projects known as Quick Impact Projects. Those projects avoided artificial distinctions between returning refugees, internally displaced persons and other needy members of the local population and, while aimed at promoting self-sufficiency, they also helped restore harmony in divided communities.

If further tragedies were to be averted and existing crises resolved, humanitarian action and development initiatives must be better synchronized and relief and development efforts should, wherever possible, be carried out simultaneously. The affected people and their Governments should be actively involved. The challenge was to continue to encourage progress even in unstable environments and to invest earlier in the economic recovery that was so vital to the consolidation of political reconciliation. To that end, UNHCR was redoubling its efforts to strengthen its partnerships with key development agencies and forge new alliances with the Bretton Woods institutions, regional development banks and non-governmental organizations. It urged Governments to vigorously support post-conflict recovery and rehabilitation not only as a viable solution to the refugee crisis, but also as an investment in regional and global security.

Mr. REMIREZ DE ESTENOZ BARCIELA (Cuba) said that the first priority of the United Nations must be to promote the development of the under-developed countries. Peace was clearly an essential prerequisite for development; however, without integral, just and equitable economic and social development, it would never be possible to achieve international peace and stability. It must be recognized that the goal of harmonious and equitable development for mankind had yet to be achieved. The gap between rich and poor countries had continued to widen, and conditions were growing ever more difficult for the less developed nations; the cost of new technologies made development possibilities even more remote. At the same time, environmental pollution and the shortage of natural resources were becoming critical. The solution of environmental problems did not depend on the development model of the poor countries, but on a radical change in patterns of consumption in the rich countries, because it was that wealth that had depleted the limited resources which belonged to all mankind, triggering an environmental crisis which posed a real threat to the future of the entire human species.

(Mr. Remirez de Estenoz Barciela, Cuba)

It was therefore essential that the United Nations should accord priority to development, which was the real cause of the growing ethnic, religious, political and territorial conflicts. The end of the cold war had not so far led to any improvement for the millions of people in poor countries and in the regions torn apart by conflicts. Even in 1993, millions of dollars had been spent on the arms race; it was senseless to waste money fighting the poor, the hungry and the illiterate instead of using it to eradicate poverty, hunger and illiteracy.

Mr. TEJERA PARIS (Venezuela) said that, in order to save time, he would refer to just two points in his prepared statement. Regarding the crucial role of international financial institutions, he said it was clear that coordination between the United Nations and those institutions needed to be reviewed so as to ensure coherence of approaches and priorities in respect of development. Without prejudice to the independence of the decision-making process of those institutions, there were significant possibilities for consultation and coordination between them and the United Nations. The agreements between the United Nations and the institutions should not be regarded as a barrier to that process. As early as 1947, when those agreements had been approved, Venezuela had expressed reservations about their scope. He supported the President's efforts to make best possible use of the time available and those efforts could be emulated in the organization of work at other meetings, for example preparations for the World Social Summit. If the number of subjects were reduced to a manageable level, and prepared ahead of time, the heads of State would be able to have a real dialogue and seek the solutions that were required, instead of merely reading out prepared statements.

Mr. ROWE (Australia) said that investment in people was increasingly recognized as essential to achieving sustainable development and peace. Future development efforts must be focused on people, and in particular the millions of people in developing countries who lived in poverty. An agenda for development should serve as a link between the various aspects of the development mandate of the United Nations. To be effective, it must build on the agreements reached at the relevant global conferences held recently or to be held in the future. Trade also played a critical role; it was recognized in the report that countries which pursued appropriate policies were most likely to derive full

(Mr. Rowe, Australia)

benefits from the recent conclusion of the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations. His delegation also supported the call for an increasingly productive relationship of consultations and cooperation between non-governmental organizations and the United Nations.

The agenda for development did not adequately address some important areas of concern: the basic role of women in development; the role of indigenous peoples; and the importance of individual and collective human rights, including the linkage between the agenda for development and the right to development.

A key question was the role played by global multilateral agencies, in particular the United Nations and its agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions. The United Nations agencies had relatively few financial resources at their disposal, but could play a catalytic role. However, old understandings about the comparative advantage of those agencies could be called into question unless they reinvigorated their approach. The agenda for development therefore needed to consider more clearly the role of the United Nations in development and to make recommendations on some of the constraints and on opportunities for a sharper focus on development by the United Nations. Moreover, further consideration needed to be given to how the Council could give greater effect to its role under General Assembly resolution 48/162. A revitalized Council could make a significant contribution not only to establishing greater policy coherence and coordination within the United Nations system as a whole but also to the effective implementation of the new agenda for development.

Mr. ELIASHIV (Israel) said that peace and development were indivisible; there could be no economic growth without peace and democracy, and peace could not prevail without a democratic system. Human rights and fundamental freedoms could not be enjoyed in the absence of democracy. A global development agenda required global peace and security. It should be based upon a broad integrated approach aimed at sustainable social and economic development as enshrined in Agenda 21.

Development should involve grass-roots participation and empowerment of the people. It was not enough for people to enjoy freedom and peace; they must also enjoy economic opportunities. The success of economic growth and human development was a direct result of education, science and technology, equality between women and men and planning and strong motivation. Israel's rapid

(Mr. Eliashiv, Israel)

economic development had been an integral element of its concentration on social progress, and had been facilitated by a strong infrastructure built around Israel's universities and research institutions and the development of science and technology.

International cooperation for development was vital; it was essential not only to increase joint endeavours, but also to draw appropriate conclusions from past experience and failures. The gap between rich and poor nations was a greater threat to universal peace than any threat arising from environmental neglect. A global and integrated approach to development should encompass human development, protection of the environment, social and demographic problems, health and education for all, transfer of technology, eradication of poverty as well as the struggle against drug abuse and other plagues. The implementation of Agenda 21 opened new vistas for attaining the objectives of sustainable development.

Regional cooperation was essential to economic progress. The agreements signed by Israel with the Palestine Liberation Organization and with Jordan were landmarks in the process of achieving peace in the Middle East. The Middle East held tremendous potential for economic and social development; economic cooperation in the Middle East would serve not only the interests of the countries in the region but also the entire world.

What was needed now was the political will to transform words into an action-oriented agenda for development.

Ms. MAIR (Jamaica) said that mankind could create a better world only if it addressed the current extraordinary global development crisis. Solutions must be global and provide for the coordinated response of North and South, developed and developing nations, national Governments and civil society. Globalization not only defined the nature of the challenge facing the international community, it also provided answers to the equitable sharing of technology, science, trade, finance, culture and information.

The United Nations had the prime responsibility for establishing the bases for such a genuinely global, equitable and participatory agenda. In that connection, the agenda for development provided a useful foundation on which to construct such a development strategy. The current wide-ranging critique of the United Nations system presented a timely opportunity for relevant change. The restructuring of the United Nations system was aimed at equipping the

(Ms. Mair, Jamaica)

Organization to meet current and future challenges more effectively. The agenda for development promised to be a key component of an evolving, self-critical United Nations and should restore to the Organization its capacity to coordinate the activities of the various agencies of the system, including regional organizations, in a manner beneficial to its members. Coordination of development policy within the system, including meaningful dialogue and joint planning with the Bretton Woods institutions, were essential to the promotion of the global goals of development.

Current efforts to construct an agenda for development, however, were not being undertaken in a vacuum. A number of consensus agreements, including those relating to the International Development Strategy, the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, Agenda 21 and the related instruments in the field of the environment, continued to be relevant. The agenda for development should not reinvent the wheel but rather build upon those earlier agreements and take account of those likely to result from future United Nations conferences. The results of those conferences could contribute to an overall policy framework for a balanced and action-oriented approach to development. The challenge therefore was to mobilize the requisite political will for their implementation.

The celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations would provide members with an opportunity not only to assess the achievements of the Organization but also to chart its future course. The adoption of an agenda for development, in that context, assumed even greater significance, since it could be considered the blueprint for the Organization's fulfilment of its original mandate for development.

Mr. ACHARYA (Observer for Nepal) said that, despite the implementation of three International Development Strategies, the economic and social situation of most developing countries remained bleak and some countries had voiced the need for a new development initiative. In that connection, the report of the Secretary-General on an agenda for development provided input for an appropriate adjustment to existing development programmes aimed at coping with the new economic and social challenges. His delegation believed that all the elements necessary for development already existed. There was no alternative to the United Nations in the field of development, especially in light of the new vision of development which was inextricably linked with peace and security. Nevertheless, there was need for closer cooperation and coordination of

(Mr. Acharya, Observer, Nepal)

operational activities between the Organization and the Bretton Woods institutions.

The rapidly emerging consensus on human-centred development which required that emphasis be placed on education for sustainable development and the equally important need to attain economic growth as the engine of progress presented a dilemma to most developing countries. The only way to resolve the resource constraints of the developing countries was by providing new and additional financial resources. The least developed countries, in particular, lacked even basic physical infrastructure and adequate mechanisms to ensure the successful implementation of free-market economies. Many of them had embarked on privatization programmes while others were still struggling to safeguard nascent democracies. The export base of the least developed countries, however, was generally very weak and their problems were different from those faced by other developing countries.

The agenda for development should be flexible enough to permit formulation of programmes on a country-specific basis. While it might be argued that structural adjustment programmes had succeeded in boosting economic growth in the emerging economies of Asia, those same programmes had failed to attract any significant direct foreign investment to the least developed countries. He therefore welcomed the current discussion of social safety nets built into structural adjustment programmes. It was clear that no single model was applicable to all countries. The needs of developing countries varied widely depending on the state of their infrastructure, technology and national capacities. The agenda for development could not succeed if it did not have the capacity to resolve the development problems of all countries, particularly those of the least developed among them.

Mr. SYCHOU (Belarus) said that the renunciation of global ideological and military confrontation encouraged hopes for a better future for all nations and peoples but at the same time gave rise to new problems and difficulties, especially for the poorest countries and the countries in transition. There was therefore a need for a new vision of development as a fundamental and inalienable human right and the most solid basis for peace. His delegation agreed that a new global consensus on the issues of development needed to be achieved as soon as possible.

(Mr. Sychou, Belarus)

Peace and security were undoubtedly one of the most important dimensions of development. The fostering of the "culture of peace" must be accompanied by universal condemnation and rejection of the "culture of war". It was generally recognized that in order to ensure stable development, favourable internal and external conditions were needed. His delegation agreed with the need for a strong national policy, pragmatic approaches and an active role of the State in those spheres of the economy where the market could not provide answers to all questions.

In the report of the Secretary-General, democracy was acknowledged as the only reliable way of improving the system of social management. The road to democracy was not easy. Not all countries could have identical levels of development or democracy. It was important that democracy, as one of the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter, should prevail in the family of nations and that each nation should have the right to express its opinion and participate in the work of the Organization.

His delegation supported the view that every individual in the world should benefit from development, and that a paradigm of development was needed which would encompass the whole spectrum of human activity.

At the same time, it felt that the agenda for development was written in excessively general terms and lacked specific and pragmatic proposals. The agenda for development did not fully reflect the broad diversity characterizing not only developing countries but also more developed States, including countries in transition. It should more clearly define the specific role of United Nations bodies, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization. A new format for international political dialogue was needed in that respect.

Mr. CALOVSKI (Observer for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that mankind was approaching the dawn of the twenty-first century with a sense of hope and at the same time a feeling of pessimism about its ability to solve the many problems which many countries faced in their bilateral relations and the major problems on the current international agenda. It would be difficult to achieve sustainable development in an international context that was so rife with problems. Central to the agenda for development, therefore, should be a commitment on the part of all States to contribute to the settlement of current international conflicts which were threatening international peace

(Mr. Calovski, Observer, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

and security. Peace should be viewed as the foundation for development and all necessary efforts must be made to eliminate obstacles to peace and the development of good neighbourly relations. In that context, the situation of the Republic of Macedonia was illustrative. His country was a landlocked, developing European country which was not lacking in knowledge of how to develop itself or in the political resolve of its population to take an active and meaningful part in national development efforts. Unfortunately, it was facing external obstacles which it could not overcome on its own. Those difficulties were attributable to the decision which the Government of Greece had adopted on 16 February 1994 and which constituted open interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Macedonia aimed at undermining its development and stability. Faced with such an unprecedented breach of international law and of the Charter, it was the duty of the Council to request the Government of Greece to annul its decision. The right of landlocked countries to access to the sea must be observed and the Economic and Social Council, the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Secretary-General should all make sure that that right was honoured by all States.

Mr. TEJERA PARIS (Venezuela) took the Chair.

Mr. KABBAJ (Observer for Morocco) said that the democratic, economic, social, ecological and participatory aspects of development required the sustained implementation of a set of coherent policies as well as close cooperation between the public and private sectors. The new concepts of human security and global partnership were becoming the cornerstone of national strategies for sustainable development, re-energized international cooperation and the overall management of world affairs based on the rule of law, both domestically and internationally.

Morocco's policies were consistent with the concepts outlined in the agenda for development. Since independence, those policies had been geared towards the promotion of economic liberalism and democratic pluralism and had laid the foundations of a civil society governed by the rule of law. The country's successful structural adjustment programme had restored macroeconomic balance and achieved major structural reforms, ushering in a period of sustained economic growth.

(Mr. Kabbaj, Observer, Morocco)

The agenda for development reflected the consensus regarding the multifaceted nature of development and recognized that development could not be achieved simply by copying an imported model of production and consumption. In order for the agenda to be used as a model for universal development, new policies and institutional arrangements must be elaborated in order to tailor the means to the ends. The political recommendations contained in the agenda should be translated into operational activities and specific programmes of action for implementation within reasonable time-frames.

The developing world faced problems of lack of resources, widespread structural unemployment, significant backwardness in the areas of health, education, equality, infrastructure and protection of the environment. The problem of the lack of resources was compounded by the unprecedented slump in commodity prices, the foreign debt crisis, lack of access to technology and restrictive trade practices.

The majority of developing countries had embarked upon courageous economic restructuring programmes which had been undertaken in an unfavourable international climate characterized by a contraction in official development assistance and the erection of non-tariff barriers to exports of those products in which the developing countries had a comparative advantage, while private investment flows failed to compensate for the negative transfers of resources to bilateral and multilateral creditors. Even those countries which had implemented successful structural adjustment programmes needed time to establish their credibility on the financial markets and to intervene on those markets with more sophisticated financial instruments. All of those realities must be taken into account in the conception and execution of the agenda for development if the international community wished to avoid the same disappointing results as those of the previous four United Nations Development Decades.

Experience had shown that, where there was real political will, much could be achieved through multilateral efforts, as illustrated by the recent conclusions of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. He recalled that the Moroccan Head of State had called for the implementation of a Marshall Plan for Africa in order to reduce the immense poverty of that continent, and had proposed the creation of a new mechanism for international negotiations aimed at ensuring closer cooperation between the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the recently established World Trade

(Mr. Kabbaj, Observer, Morocco)

Organization. He appealed to the international community to consider those proposals at the forthcoming session of the General Assembly as part of its consideration of the item on an agenda for development.

Mr. DE ROJAS (Observer for the Latin American Economic System) said that the agenda for development should constitute a comprehensive programme of action, encompassing interrelated areas within each of the five pillars identified by the Secretary-General. The agenda correctly included many of the social, political and cultural aspects of development, since the orthodox free-market development models of previous years had failed to achieve economic liberalization and growth together with equity, social justice and participation. One should not be deluded, however, into thinking that dealing with the symptoms of underdevelopment, namely, poverty, environmental degradation, the treatment of women, and poor governance, would eliminate the problem. There was need to address the root causes of underdevelopment, which included worsening terms of trade, lack of effective access to markets, unfulfilled official development assistance commitments, the debt problem, limited access to technology, and inequitable participation in decision-making.

His delegation agreed on the need to fundamentally restructure the United Nations system to enable it to play its proper role in development and international economic cooperation. That goal could only be achieved by a political consensus to effectively restore to the United Nations responsibility for coordinating intersectoral policies and by involving all the bodies of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, in a more organic configuration where functions and responsibilities would be clearly assigned according to comparative advantage and where a minimum of consistency and coherence would be assured. Although many had called for the creation of a new organ, such as an economic security council, in order to achieve that goal, the possibility of a profound transformation of the Economic and Social Council itself should not be discarded. That decision should be an integral part of a political agreement to bring to the United Nations the central focus of international economic discussion and action. Indeed, apart from the many other purposes which had been served, it could become the much desired permanent forum for North-South dialogue.

As the Organization prepared to commemorate its fiftieth anniversary, it should not lose sight of the need to build a moral and ethical perspective of

(Mr. De Rojas)

development into its discussions and agreements. Without development there could be no lasting peace and security; development was therefore in the enlightened self-interest of all countries. It must also be remembered that there were higher calls for international social justice and human solidarity which transcended considerations of "mutual benefit" and "common interest".

Mr. YOO (Republic of Korea) said that development was one of the most critical tasks facing the international community as it sought to address socio-economic difficulties and lay the foundation for peace. Development and peace were inextricably linked and must be pursued in tandem if a stable world was to be achieved. Development was a process of self-reliant growth which enabled human beings to realize their full potential, build self-confidence and lead lives of dignity and accomplishment. In order to achieve that goal, it was necessary to eradicate poverty, secure equitable income distribution and enhance social structures and institutions. Those universally shared objectives could not be confined to national borders.

Turning to the report of the Secretary-General on an agenda for development (A/48/935), his delegation was of the view that African countries should be accorded special consideration. Also, given their fundamental role in development, science and technology should be included in the agenda for development. Moreover, although individual countries must bear primary responsibility, national efforts must be buttressed by international cooperation, including South-South cooperation.

For its part, the United Nations must adopt a new approach in order to effectively respond to the changing needs and requirements of developing countries. It alone, through the legitimacy provided by the Charter and by its universal membership, was equipped to cope with the twin needs of peace and development in a balanced way. It alone possessed the organizational skills and expertise to deal with the broad range of complex issues involved in development. Given the rapidly changing world environment, however, a realistic assessment of the limitations of the United Nations must be made. In that connection, the proposal to establish an economic security council was worthy of further consideration. In terms of organizational efficiency, however, he wondered whether it was worth establishing an entirely new organization or whether the time might not be better spent discussing the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council. Clearly, what was needed was a forum for real

(Mr. Yoo, Republic of Korea)

dialogue between developing and developed countries, whether that meant a restructured Council or an entirely new one. If managed with efficiency and confidence, the United Nations was the best available instrument for handling the world situation with a reasonable expectation of success.

Mr. AL-ANANI (Observer for Jordan) said that the agenda for development must acknowledge the efforts of countries which were experiencing short-term difficulties as a result of their long-term policy objectives. In that connection, he proposed the adoption of objective evaluation criteria which could be used to judge countries on their performance in the area of sustainable development. Such criteria could include progress on human rights, structural adjustment and environmental protection. Countries with good records should be encouraged and helped. The agenda for development should contain a plan for addressing the problem of foreign debt through rescheduling, debt write-off and enhanced official development assistance. A financial package was needed to finance multinational projects likely to enhance regional peace and cooperation. As it would not be easy to fulfil the requirements of an open economy, free trade, enhanced private-sector involvement and a diminished role of the State, special arrangements must be made to help countries overcome the problems which those tasks entailed. Thus far, many countries which embarked upon a free economy approach did so under pressure to repay their debts or seek foreign assistance; a positive incentive plan should be developed instead.

Ms. CHINERY-HESSE (Deputy Director-General, International Labour Organization) said that the employment situation in most countries was worsening and that deepening youth unemployment, increased job insecurity and growing social exclusion were some of the major manifestations of that global employment crisis. The agenda for development must seek to reverse that trend. Her organization viewed productive employment as the key to combating poverty and social exclusion. Governments must ensure that growth led to the creation of jobs in conditions which respected the dignity and basic rights of workers. While the process of liberalization offered possibilities of employment creation and poverty alleviation, it did not guarantee greater social justice. Indeed, there was a serious risk that entire nations and social groups would become increasingly marginalized. There was therefore an urgent need for an international regulatory machinery to deal with social and labour issues in order to ensure both economic and social security. That endeavour could be

(Ms. Chinery-Hesse, ILO)

facilitated by a permanent dialogue between international financial, economic and commercial institutions and institutions responsible for social welfare such as ILO. The World Summit for Social Development was a critical opportunity for mobilizing action in the fight against unemployment, poverty and social exclusion and for creating conditions for employment growth and greater social justice world wide.

Mr. Butler (President) resumed the Chair.

Mr. SY (Observer for the Organization of African Unity) said that, in reviewing the status of development efforts in connection with the consideration of the agenda for development, attention should focus on the basic issues that were critical to the stimulation of economic growth and development in those regions of the world that had been marginalized as a result of the process of globalization. The economic reforms of African countries must be supported by a favourable international environment marked by higher commodity prices and better access for African products to the markets of industrialized countries. The outcome of the Uruguay Round would pose problems for Africa's trade in terms of higher prices for imported food, those problems should be addressed through special measures such as additional preferential trade treatment. The decline in foreign investment in Africa must be reversed and the agenda should call for an increase in foreign investments in order to promote development in African countries. African countries should be given greater access to technology; indeed, transfer of technology should be one of the central elements of the agenda for development. Unless financial flows were significantly boosted, economic recovery and growth in Africa could remain elusive. Further measures, including debt write-offs, should be taken to end the debt crisis of the heavily indebted African countries. Removal of the external debt overhang would release resources for economic growth and development in Africa. The agenda for development should also call for increased technical and financial assistance by international financial institutions to help complement the political and economic commitment of African countries under regional economic integration arrangements.

Mr. MASUKU (Swaziland) said that the agenda for development should take into account the special circumstances prevailing in developing countries and seek to improve the terms of trade of African countries. It should also facilitate greater access of African products to the developed markets in order

(Mr. Masuku, Switzerland)

to enable African countries to increase their foreign exchange earnings. Furthermore, the agenda should facilitate an increase in development aid flows and technology transfer to Africa and contain measures to deal with the recurring drought problems, the negative effects of free trade in the short term, as well as measures to alleviate the debt burden. It should also seriously seek to eradicate drug abuse, facilitate arms control and address the problem of HIV/AIDS.

Mr. ELARABY (Egypt) said that his delegation wished to associate itself with the statement made earlier in the debate by the representative of Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and with the statement on the same subject that had been made at the meeting held to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Group's establishment.

The debate concerning an agenda for development must avoid futile philosophical speculation on the nature of development and analysis of its current status and the problems linked with it and must focus instead on clearly defined and action-oriented recommendations.

A genuine international partnership must be created based on the right to development and the responsibility to undertake political and economic reform and on the corresponding responsibility of developed countries to support such development by the mobilization of adequate resources and the transfer of technology. That partnership could not be established while a limited number of developed countries continued to monopolize the making of decisions that affected the international economic situation and had an adverse impact on the developing countries. An international climate conducive to development required greater transparency and democracy in the decision-making process.

The mobilization of the necessary financial resources remained the core issue of development. The gap between the funds needed to achieve sustainable development and the financial resources made available through bilateral and multilateral channels continued to widen. The ability of the developing countries to meet commitments arising out of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development and the major conferences to be held in 1995 and 1997 would depend on the success of the international community in mobilizing the necessary financial resources. It was the basic responsibility of the advanced industrialized countries to ensure that that was done.

(Mr. Elaraby, Egypt)

There was an organic link between peacemaking and the achievement of sustainable development, and there must therefore be the same degree of public, parliamentary and government support in the industrialized countries for increased assistance to development as was from time to time in evidence for peace-keeping operations and humanitarian assistance. The Department of Public Information must therefore accord the same coverage and attention to an agenda for development as it had to "An Agenda for Peace".

Mr. NORDMANN (Observer for Switzerland) said that the increasing number of conflicts world wide had enhanced the importance of emergency humanitarian assistance. While the use of force to deliver humanitarian assistance was a proper subject for discussion, it was clear that such assistance should not cut too much into the resources earmarked for financing long-term development policies, since the latter was the only way to eliminate the root causes of conflicts. It was necessary to be able to move swiftly from the emergency assistance stage to the long-term development policy stage in order to overcome the contradiction between those two forms of intervention. The United Nations must clarify the principles of its action in that regard for the agenda contained little information on the subject. Furthermore, development policies must be tailored to reality and to the power struggle that was often evident in relations between North and South. The institutional framework for the realization of the agenda for development could only be provided by a thorough reform of the United Nations system and of its relations with other institutions, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions. While the United Nations should strengthen its role as a global forum for political, economic and social questions, it should also increase its efficiency.

Mr. CAMBISTIS (Greece), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that by referring to his country as the Republic of Macedonia, the representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had violated the provisions of paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 817 (1993). As the difference over the name of that State had not yet been settled, it should be known as the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The measures that Greece had taken in February 1994 stemmed from an eminently political difference which would be taken up by the competent United Nations forum. The current meeting

(Mr. Cambistis, Greece)

was not the appropriate forum for his delegation to reply to the inaccuracies in the statement of the delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.